WRL News

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D.C. Anti-Nuke Rally Draws 125,000

MAY - JUNE ACTIONS INVOLVE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR POWER LINKED TO WEAPONS MANY ARRESTED, ONE KILLED

by David McReynolds

History moves at its own speed and has a calendar different from ours.

Last September, when the Mobilization for Survival Conference laid out a "timeline," there was *nothing* planned for May, and, largely as a courtesy to the international movement, the conference had agreed to "nationally coordinated community actions at nuclear, military or corporate sites . . . to coincide with international anti-nuclear actions in early June.

Even as late as March 3, when there was a special "unity meeting" to bring the various alliances such as Clamshell, SHAD, Catfish, etc., into a better working relationship with the national organizations working through the Mobilization, there was no discussion of any action this spring—the attention was on the debate between a national

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Washington, D.C., on May 6

Photo by Karl Bissinger

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demonstration this fall or the spring of 1980.

No one could tell, last September, or early in March, that America was about to face its most serious nuclear accident. Outside of the area around Harrisburg and the people active in the Keystone Alliance, no one even knew what "Three Mile Island" meant. Then, the last week of March, the nuclear power plant at Three Mile Island experienced a partial meltdown. "The China Syndrome" was no longer a movie. It was a clear and present danger.

History began to disrupt our calendars. The WRL National Committee meeting was "interrupted" because half the members, led by Norma Becker, were out in the streets organizing the first demonstration, which began the evening of March 30th, near the New York University campus, and marched uptown to Columbia University. Only days later, on April 6, 200 activists met in Washington to consider a possible national action. It was a meeting called on the spur of the moment and I'm not sure those who called it—people who work around Ralph Nader's projects—wanted the pacifists there, but I got a train and rushed down for the meeting. Ed Hedemann took the train four days later to the second meeting. The National action was on. May 6th was organized exactly one month from the time the idea had been discussed.

Only once before in my memory was so massive a rally called so swiftly—that was in 1970, at the beginning of the decade, when 100,000 poured into Washington on *less than ten days notice* to protest Nixon's invasion of Cambodia. But in that case there had been a nation-wide student strike following the Kent State murders. Demonstrations of 125,000 usually take six months of very hard work, and vast amounts of money. Between April 6 and May 6, 125,000 from virtually every state had signed on for Washington and turned out to give their answer to Three Mile Island. Van Zwisohn and I were handing out the WRL "Stop Nuclear Terror" tags as the buses pulled in from Harrisburg. Harrisburg is not a seething center of radicalism. It is a quiet American city. And from that quiet American city fifty buses came, filled with people who were quietly angry. People who had learned first hand that the corporations put profit ahead of safety, and that the government lied.

And the regional actions of June 2-4 turned into mass regional actions—in at least 16 different countries. There were actions in Belguim, Switzerland, Italy, Sweden, Japan, Denmark, England, Austria, France, Ireland, Canada, even in Luxemburg. 20,000 marched in the Netherlands, 8,000 in West Germany, and tragically, a demonstrator was killed during the actions in Spain. The names of the towns and cities where actions were held are ominous, as if they had been chosen for nuclear sites because they sound dangerous: Doel, Gasselte, Kalkar, Grabel, Tudela, Barsebaek, Carnsore.

In the United States the largest single direct action was the vast rally and occupation at Shoreham, on Long Island. If May 6 had been a sunny warm spring day, June 3 was overcast and the mists of dawn turned into a steady drizzle and then into downpours. Ralph DiGia, holding down the WRL literature table, was drenched—but saved the buttons and leaflets and pamphlets by throwing clear plastic over them. 16,000 people stood in the rain for hours while speakers spoke and singers sang and the clouds poured down rain. 603 people were arrested during the day. But in California there was a mass legal rally even larger than the Shoreham Occupation, so Los Angeles takes top honors—*18,000* people filled Hollywood Bowl for "Survival Sunday." In Arkansas 900 rallied in Russellville, and 90 were arrested. In Colorado 1500 rallied in Platteville. In Indiana there were 300 at Marble Hill, and 100 were jailed. In Virginia, heart of the Old Confederacy, there was a new rebellion—and this time it made sense, as 900 people moved against the North Anna Nuclear Site and 119 were arrested. In all, over 1500 were arrested at sites around the country in early June.

Photo by Grace Hedemann

Washington, D.C., on May 6

If the names of the nuclear sites in Europe have an ominous sound, the names of the regional alliances in the U.S. sound as American as fireworks and civil disobedience: Comanche Peak Life Force; SHAD, Clamshell, Oystershell, Sunbelt, Keystone, Paddlewheel, Catfish, Palmetto, Sunflower, Crabshell, Rainbow. The decentralized revolt against corporate America reached out to touch the heartland. One notice on the "Calendar" read simply: "Minnesota: Demonstration at Prairie Island, 8 miles northeast of Red Wing, Contact Northern Sun Alliance."

It is this which cannot be stopped, this spread across America, across the world, of the realization we have only one planet and if it is poisoned, we shall die. And where in the beginning there was a struggle between those opposing only nuclear power and those opposing only nuclear weapons, people now understand these two issues are linked. They are even moving beyond the linking of these two issues, to understand that other issues, of human needs and full employment must be included.

Let me bring this news report to an end by giving you the headlines that will be in the papers on Saturday afternoon, April 26: "MASS RALLY LAUNCHES NEW DECADE/ PROTEST MOVEMENT GROWS/ NEARLY A QUARTER MILLION DEMAND SAFE ENERGY, JOBS, DISARMAMENT." I say this because on June 16-17 there was a second "unity

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conference" which again brought together the regional alliances and the groups working in Mobilization for Survival. April 26 is the date set for a mass rally in Washington. This first major action of the 1980s. Civil disobedience is included in the plans, and will be announced on the posters—but it is not clear yet whether this will be on the same day or on Monday, when government offices are open. There is a special task force working out these plans now.

The thing of interest to me as we met in Washington was the linking of "generations of protest," from Dave Dellinger, who had resisted the military in World War II, right on through the Civil Rights and Vietnam activists to the newest generation, formed out of the nuclear protests. And what was impressive was the ability of these generations to link the issues. This linkage is not automatic—it involves an ideological struggle. Most of the "no-Nukes" groups and people are white, middle class and do not immediately understand that trade unions worry about the impact on their jobs of cutting the flow of nuclear power, or cutting back on military orders. At first it seemed odd for the demand "Full Employment" to be added to the slogans on weapons and power. But as the discussion continued, people did understand this, and it was ironic that opposition to including the slogan on full employment didn't come from Shad, Sunbelt or Catfish—it came from sections of the Old Left who were present and seemed fearful that if the movement "broadened the range of issues, it would narrow the base of support." That is an old—and very mechanical—fear. The political reality has always been that a movement, whether the Labor movement of the 30s, or the Civil Rights movement of the 50s, or the Vietnam movement of the 60s, becomes a movement precisely because it understands the links of one issue to another.

The more than 100 people present June 16-17 were not new left, or old left. They were a living reflection of the movement, rejecting labels, and adopting programs that make sense. The group of activists that met at George Washington University did not have the answers, but they will search for them. And the War Resisters League, which also does not have the answers, will join in the search. Those who know they have the answers are part of the problem. Those who are searching for answers are part of the solution.

David McReynolds is on the WRL National staff.

Photo by Grace Hedemann

Climbing over fence at Shoreham nuclear power plant on June 3.

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Literature

WHAT THE WELL-DRESSED ANTI-NUKER WILL WEAR THIS SUMMER

T-shirt with an outline of the nuke stack and the slogan SHUT DOWN THE NUKES. Large, medium and small (specify which). . . $4

2 NEW NUKE BOOKS

NUCLEAR POWER—THE UNVIABLE OPTION by John Berger. Linus Pauling says: "John Berger has cut through the mountains of data on this complex subject to reveal the essential facts.". . .384 pp. $4.50

NUCLEAR MADNESS by Helen Caldicott. If you've heard Helen Calidcott speak at an anti-nuke rally—and she speaks at many such demos—you'll want to read her book 120 pp. . . . $3.95.

Uranium Mining and Milling in New Mexico and Demonstration at Mt. Taylor

(As part of our continuing coverage of the Nuclear Moratorium Campaign, we run in this issue a report on the "front end" of the nuclear tragedy—the mining of the uranium itself. If the mining of uranium can be halted, nuclear weapons and nuclear power will not only be politically risky, or economically unprofitable—they will become technically impossible! Thus the struggles occuring in areas with low population density are central to the survival even of great cities thousands of miles away from Mt. Taylor.)

by Linda Taylor

About 75 miles northwest of Albuquerque, shrouded in a hazy blue mist and crested with snow even in June, sits one of the most beautiful and mystical mountains in New Mexico—Mt. Taylor. This mountain is located in the heart of a region called the Grants Mineral Belt, a 100-mile long band noted for its rich deposits of uranium ore and exploited by some of the largest corporations in the world. Mt. Taylor is now surrounded by uranium mining and milling operations on almost every side, and its beauty and tranquility are being further marred by the presence of Gulf Mineral Resources Company, who is drilling mine shafts into its western side in search of the uranium reserves located there. Mt. Taylor, once a thunderous volcano that rises just 11,000, is also deeply woven into the Indian culture here, being held sacred by the Navajo and Pueblo Indians who draw their spiritual strength from it.

More recently, Mt. Taylor is noted as the gathering place for a demonstration by Indian people in late April to protest the spiritual and physical desecration of this and other lands which they view as a sacrilege. Fifty-five percent of this country's uranium comes from New Mexico, and 48% of that is produced on Indian land. It is the Indian people, especially the Navajo and Pueblo, who have suffered the most from the adverse effects of uranium production to their lands and culture. The demonstration focused on the issues of Indian sovereignty, land and water rights, and the serious ecological disruption and health dangers associated with the exploration, mining and milling of uranium. It also addressed the moral implications of the use to which the uranium would be put—building up an already inflated atomic weapons arsenal and fueling commercial nuclear reactors around the country. This spiritual demonstration at Mt. Taylor was a very unusual and historic event for New Mexico, particularly because it brought together a large number of Indian, Anglo and Chicano people and united these different cultures around common issues.

The demonstration was organized by the American Indian Environmental Council (AIEC), formed last fall by John Redhouse, Navajo, and Diana Ortiz, Acoma. AIEC has been working to bring out the dangers of uranium mining to their people and help them work toward self-sufficiency and nondestructive use of their land—as the Indian people had done before the white people came here. It was John and Diania of the AIEC who took me on a tour of the devastation wrought by the uranium industry in the vicinity of Mt. Taylor. The sight of that ravaged land was worse than I could have imagined, and has been permanently imprinted in my mind and heart.

Our first trip was to the Anaconda open pit stripmine—the largest in the world and located on the Laguna reservation near the village of Paguate. For the last 25 years, Anaconda has been stripping this area for uranium, and has totally mutilated over 2,500 acres of this reservation. Just beyond the mining operations you can see the distant mountains. The contrast is striking. Left now are huge mountain-like pockmarks of uranium ore refuse containing radioactive sands, earth and rocks.

But the most painful aspect of this particular site is that the Paguate village, a community of about 700 Indian people, has been invaded by the mining activity which is now illegally eating its way underneath the village. Paguate is now totally dependent on uranium mining economically, and the people have lost their self-sufficiency as a tribe. This village has literally been colonized by Anaconda, with most of the Indian people there working the mines. When the company leaves after the uranium is gone, it will leave behind acute unemployment, hundreds of miles of permanently scarred land, serious health and environmental problems, and any of its responsibility.

And no one has told these people of the risks to their health and future generations posed by the mining through radiation releases. For example, a stream running through Anaconda's stripmine was found to be contaminated with radioactive particles. Anaconda is responsible for monitoring its own radiation levels, but did not warn the people in Paguate. who use the water for drinking and cleaning. And the Tribal Council there, which supports the uranium mining, has not allowed information on potential dangers to reach its people, either because of the threat to the economic stability of the pueblo or because they have been quieted through Anaconda's propaganda campaign and high wages.

Further west and a little closer to Mt. Taylor in the Ambrosia Lake District we saw the uranium mines of Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation and United Nuclear-Homestake Partners. Unlike Anaconda's open pit mine, these are underground. Throughout Ambrosia you can see radon gas being shot out of the large metal vents from the mines below. Radon is a radioactive gas released during the mining process and decays to form other radioactive elements—its daughters—all of which are known to cause lung cancer. This is the same radon gas which, after a 15-20 year latency period, resulted in the cancer deaths of 25 out of 100 Navajo miners who worked in Kerr McGee's unventilated uranium mines in Red Rock, Arizona. These preventable deaths resulted in laws requiring mandatory ventilation systems for underground mines in 1971—a regulation vigorously opposed by Kerr McGee and other uranium mining corporations for years. Now most of the radon is shot out of the mines—into the surrounding environment. Here at Ambrosia Lake these monolithic vents emerge near people's homes and even in some backyards, seething the deadly gas. Others appear on grazing lands, where cows lazily chew on contaminated vegetation or drink from nearby streams. Cattle ranchers have complained of sick cows in the area (we saw two dead cows on that first trip alone), and many of them are losing their capacity to reproduce.

Radon, because it is a gas, is carried easily by the wind, and its decay products have reached as far as the east coast from New Mexico. This has increased the amount of radiation in background levels. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission itself has

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stated "Uranium mining and milling are the most significant sources of radiation exposure to the public from the *entire* nuclear fuel cycle—far surpassing nuclear reactors and high level radioactive waste disposal." Yet there are *no* laws in the state regulating these releases from the mines into the general environment at this time.

There are also uranium mills in Ambrosia, where the ore is taken and uranium is extracted for processing into "yellowcake." It will later be refined and fabricated at facilities outside New Mexico for use in nuclear reactors around the country. This "yellowcake" is actually less than 1% of the ore taken from the mines. The rest of it is waste, or "mill tailings," which will be radioactive for hundreds of thousands of years and should be isolated from the biosphere for that period of time. But the tailings (about 70 million *tons* in New Mexico!) are just dumped outside the mill in piles which grow to mountain size within 10-20 years. Kerr McGee's mill in Ambrosia alone has generated a tailings pile of 23 milion tons of radioactive sand and rock, 100 feet high and covering a land area of over 259 acres.

These tailings are blown around in the environment, contaminating the air, land and water with radium, thorium and other radioactive particles. Rains have seeped through the piles and contaminated groundwater beneath. United Nuclear-Homestake Partners now has to ship in bottled drinking water for nearby residents at Murray and Broadview Acres because of high concentrations of selenium, a heavy metal found in well water from its tailings pile. It is anyone's guess who will provide these people with fresh drinking water when the mill closes down and United leaves in 20 or 30 years. "Stabilization" of these piles (covering with dirt, gravel or asphalt) would reduce the radon and other emissions, but companies have fought most regulations requiring them to pay for it, leaving radiation emissions from tailings unregulated also. Who will end up paying for the perpetual care and monitoring necessary to maintain the piles for the next 250,000 years? So far the state and federal government, with taxpayers' money, has picked up the tab.

Then at Mt Taylor, Gulf is drilling two mine shafts approximately 3,300 deep to get at the estimated 100 million pounds of uranium oxide underneath, one of the richest reserves yet discovered in the United States. In addition to the other problems of uranium mining as mentioned earlier, Gulf will pump out of its shafts at Mt. Taylor 6,000 gallons of water a minute. Because uranium is found in water bearing strata, the water containing the uranium has to be pumped out of the mines before extraction. This "dewatering" of underground aquifers has raised concerns of many citizens in New Mexico, as it is a semi-arid state which receives only 5-10" of rainfall a year and already has a water problem.

After blasting, the water is mixed with radioactive radium and uranium, and the water cannot safely be used for irrigation or drinking, so it is usually stored in "holding ponds" where it eventually evaporates in the hot desert sun. John and Diana told me the once-green and lush vegetation is growing brittle and turning yellow-brown from the loss of this precious resource over the past several years. Wildlife in the area cannot survive on it and leave, resulting in the breakdown of an already fragile ecology.

And of course the industry, with its resounding line, continues to insist that there is "little or no harm to the public or the environment" from uranium mining and milling. They do not inform their workers as to any of the risks associated with exposure to radiation. Even state agencies and regulating authorities "governing" the uranium industry and aware of these problems for years have not taken any real steps to help the people directly impacted by its consequences. Maybe that is because most of the people from this area are poor Indian and Chicano people, with obviously little political power. So instead, as indicated in a National Academy of Sciences report in 1974 and used in James Schlesinger's energy speech in 1978, they designate the Grants Mineral Belt, and New Mexico for that matter, as a"sacrifice" area. With so much uranium reserves here, and the big push by government and industry for nuclear power, they can advocate this ruthless destruction of the earth and the people in the name of an "energy crisis," thereby turning this entire state into a colony for the rest of the country's energy "needs."

Although there have been some people working on the uranium issues in New Mexico, there had been little organized mass resistance or outcry before the demonstration at Mt. Taylor. The people in AIEC called the protest as a way to increase awareness and begin to mobilize opposition to uranium production on Indian and other lands. Mt. Taylor, one of the last sacred areas to be disrupted by the uranium industry and especially symbolic because of its beauty and spiritual significance, was chosen as the site. Chicano and Anglo people from New Mexico are invited to participate.

At Mt. Taylor, for three days there were speeches, workshops, literature and displays. Speakers included Indian spiritual leaders, elders, and members of local tribes, many of whom walked a hundred miles through their reservation before arrival. Interspersed were Chicano and Anglo speakers, including nationally-known anti-nuclear activists Drs. George Wald and Helen Caldicott. From outside New Mexico, delegates representing groups as far away as Germany, Canada and Australia, where indigenous peoples are trying to save their lands from uranium exploitation, had come to show their support and solidarity on an international level. There were also representatives from anti-nuclear groups from California to New England showing the national significance of the demonstration.

During this gathering there were about 800 Indian, Anglo and Chicano people who came together at the base of Mt. Taylor in unity. All stood in defense of their land and their people. All said no to uranium production and nuclear power. This coming together of people from such totally different cultures in New Mexico was by far one of the most powerful political and social statements made there—one which transcended uranium and nuclear issues and touched one even deeper—survival. Survival of all our people through the protection of our earth. And it will take nothing less than the unity that occurred at Mt. Taylor, by all of us, to fight the exploitation by industry and government, as evidenced by this nuclear genocide, in fulfilling that goal.

Linda Taylor is an Albuquerque anti-nuke activist.

Nuclear Test Ban

by Pat Lacefield

The event merited a one-inch filler item in the back pages of the *New York Times* on Christmas eve, 1978. On the morrow debris from a Chinese nuclear weapons test would drift over the eastern seaboard. As the nuclear arms race rolls on, escalating to dizzying heights even as the two superpowers negotiate a "controlled escalation" in SALT II, the testing of nuclear weapons—aboveground, in the case of the Chinese and French, and underground, as with the United States, the Soviet Union and Great Britain—continues unabated.

The victory that the peace movement thought it had achieved in 1963 with the Limited Test Ban treaty has proved illusory. The Limited Test Ban treaty, the result of an intense campaign worldwide against nuclear testing, radiation from which found its way into the food chain, prohibited all nuclear testing in the atmosphere, underwater and in outer space—sanctioning continued testing underground. The purposes of the ban were threefold: 1) to prevent the release of radioactive fallout into the atmosphere, 2) to retard weapons development by the nuclear powers, and 3) to lessen the possibility of proliferation of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear nations. On all three counts the Limited Test Ban has failed and that failure is key to an understanding of why a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, such as has been advanced by the Soviets and pigeonholed by the US Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of Energy James Schlesinger, could become the focus of efforts to promote a realizable, *yet genuine* first step toward disarmament.

Though a comprehensive test ban has been a goal of both the United States and the Soviet Union "in principle" since the idea was first broached in the United Nations in 1956, principles have, not surprisingly, yielded to the political exigencies of superpower foreign policy objectives. Due to pressure from the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, the underground loophole in the Limited Test Ban allowed both nations to carry on business as usual. In fact, the *majority* of the 1117 nuclear tests (53% carried out by the US and 36% by the Soviets) carried out between 1945 and 1977 occurred *after* the 1963 treaty at an average rate of 34-42 per year. And though the Limited Test Ban did reduce fallout pollution from bomb tests, China and France continue—contemptuous of world opinion—to test in the atmosphere since they are not among the 108 nations ratifying the treaty. Moreover, at least one in five US underground tests and an unknown number of Soviet tests "vent" radioactive debris to the surface and release deadly particles into the atmosphere.

The Arms Control and Disarmament Agency estimates that over 500 megatons of nuclear yield have "graced" our planet since 1945 and the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are not by far the only victims of the bomb. Three times (most recently last September) the Bikini Islanders of the South Pacific have been driven from their homes by the legacy of the five US nuclear weapons tested on their 25-mile-long atoll in the 1950s. Recently released documents show a concerted campaign by Presidents Eisenhower and Johnson to, in the words of the former, "keep the public confused about fallout" for fear that protest might hamper the nuclear testing program. Harry Truman, despite an Atomic Energy Commission report stating that "questions about radioactive contamination are not satisfactorily answered," ordered testing shifted to Nevada in December, 1950, in response to the outbreak of the Korean War. Despite an estimated 400,000 AEC and military personnel and an unknown number of civilians exposed to dangerous levels of radiation from the tests, the Johnson Administration suppressed a 1965 Public Health Service study authored by Edward S. Weiss. It revealed a link between leukemia and nuclear tests in southwestern Utah. This study would, according to the government, "pose potential problems . . . adverse public relations, lawsuits and would jeopardize programs at the Nevada test site." Martha Laird, who lives north of the test site and lost a son to leukemia, wrote to her senator about the explosions only to be told that "scare stories about radiation dangers were communist-inspired." Now civilians and army veterans are suing the government by the thousands for compensation for nuclear test radiation exposure for huge amounts. Such exposure and the concomitant lawsuits can be expected to continue.

Part and parcel of the Pentagon's objections to a comprehensive test ban treaty is the objection that it would retard the development and deployment of new strategic and tactical weapons. Ironically, this is supposed to be a primary goal of a test ban, the logic being that if you cannot test a weapons system with a live warhead you cannot be certain of its reliability and efficacy. Such uncertainty would rule out any possibility of a calculated and deliberate first strike policy by either side and essentially freeze deployment-in-place, thus inhibiting research and development of new systems, setting the stage for genuine reductions, eventually to zero nuclear weapons.

Fears of a Soviet first strike and knowledge of American technological superiority aside, the US defense establishment has eschewed a total test ban, demanding—and receiving—concessions in the Limited Test Ban and the Nuclear Threshold Treaty of 1974 ("limiting" nuclear tests to 150 kilotons) that preserved essential military options. Not only have these treaties, as a result, failed to discourage other states from procuring nuclear weapons (India and probably Israel and South Africa, not to mention the three dozen or so with near-nuclear capability) but have insured that France and China would continue to test weapons in the atmosphere to preserve their options in an ever-escalating arms race.

When, in July, 1977, talks between the US, USSR, and Great Britain resumed on the comprehensive test ban, the Soviets surprised the United States delegation by agreeing to on-site inspection on a voluntary basis to verify test ban compliance. On-site verification had always been a sticking point with US hawks, unwilling to rely on satellite and seismic verification. Then, in September, the Soviets yielded on their insistance that all nuclear states must be parties to any agreement, thus agreeing to allow the Chinese to continue testing weapons. In yet another concession, Leonid Brezhnev announced the Soviets' willingness to halt "peaceful nuclear explosions" (used to explore for oil and gas deposits, dig canals, etc) thus removing yet another roadblock to a total test ban.

The Soviet concessions raised hopes that a test ban would be agreed on and signed at the UN Special Session on Disarmament—hopes alas that were not be be. However, President Carter did announce, on May 25, 1978, his

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willingness to ask for a *temporary*, five-year ban on all nuclear testing save small laboratory experiments. Carter's announcement was seen as a limited victory for Paul Warnke and Administration doves. By June 30, Schlesinger and the Pentagon had turned the tables on the doves, however, by refusing to concur with the President's instructions to US negotiators in Geneva. Carter promptly retreated from his earlier statement, staking out a position allowing "small" tests and calling for a two rather than five year treaty, thus vitiating whatever worth was embodied in his initial proposal.

Unlike the SALT II pact, a comprehensive test ban would constitute a genuine step toward disarmament. It would provide a mechanism to bring the French and Chinese into the disarmament process, eliminate weapons' fallout radioactivity, and significantly impede weapons deployment. Moreover, the Soviets have made major concessions on testing issues, thus giving the peace movement a handle to pressure our government to respond in kind. A comprehensive test ban is both significant and realistic. Of course, a test ban is not an end in and of itself. It represents an interim goal in a long-range strategy for the elimination of all nuclear weapons and must be seen in the context of our continuing demands on the United States and the Soviet Union to take unilateral steps toward the reduction of armaments. The comprehensive test ban, supported by three-fourths of the American people according to a recent Harris Poll, provides just a means in pursuit of that end.

Pat Lacefield is former WIN staff member, currently a free-lance writer.

IGAL ROODENKO RECEIVES 19th ANNUAL AWARD

Joining a list that includes Jeanette Rankin, A.J. Muste, Barbara Deming, Dan Berrigan, Dave Dellinger, Jim Peck, Ann Upshure, Tracy Mygatt and Frances Witherspoon, Igal Roodenko received the 19th Annual War Resisters League Award on April 28th at WRL's dinner.

Igal had just returned from an extended speaking tour that had taken him away from New York for three months, covering much of the Midwest. He returned just in time for the dinner, beamish, bright, and youthful behind his shaggy beard—as if months of travel were his way of relaxing.

During World War II Igal served a term in prison as a war resister. In 1947 he was part of a group of young men who tested the Jim Crow laws in interstate buses—and as a result served a term on a North Carolina chain gang. During the 1960s he chaired War Resisters League and when he is in the city he is one of the grass roots activists in both the SHAD Alliance and New York City WRL. His list of arrests is long and impressive, but his greatest contribution has almost certainly not been through the occasional acts of civil disobedience but the almost endless hours of discussion, formally and informally, during which, to paraphrase Gandhi, he "did not merely appeal to our heads, he captured our hearts."

Pat Lacefield presented the award, and Grace Paley and Norma Becker co-chaired the evening. Among the many guests were past chairmen Roy Finch and Ed Gottlieb. Despite political disagreements in recent years, Bayard Rustin, at one time a staff member of WRL, came to the dinner as his own personal tribute to Igal—and closed the evening by leading the group in song.

Igal Roodenko Photo by David McReynolds

McCRACKIN FINALLY RELEASED

by Larry Gara

Maurice McCrackin was released May 10 after nearly four months in custody for refusing to testify about his being held hostage by two escaping prisoners last fall. Even though Judge Rupert Doan had extended the term of the grand jury for an additional five months solely to keep Mac in jail, a series of events, including a protest resignation of a grand juror on another case, editorial support for his release in both Cincinnati newspapers, a pro-Mac resolution from the city council, apparently influenced the judge to sentence Mac to a final ten days for contempt.

At the time of his release, Mac had just ended a second hunger strike. The following Sunday about 100 friends had a picnic celebration in a Cincinnati park. Within a few days he was testifying to the city council against providing more powerful weapons to the police, and participating in a public vigil against the death penalty. Since the grand jury is still in session Mac could be jailed again but this is less likely with each passing day. When asked what his response would be to a second subpoena Mac told the reporter, "The second verse is the same as the first." How typical an answer from this veteran nonviolent activist.

WRL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all the causes of war.

☐ **I support this statement and wish to enroll as a member of the War Resisters League.**

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____ **Zip**_____

Send to War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street
New York, N.Y. 10012

Armed Forces Day Protested

During the Vietnam War, the big public observances of Armed Forces Day were ignored, so deep was public resentment to military symbols. But this year, as if to test the waters of public opinion, there was an effort to observe the date. The official date was May 19th, but in New York the local patriotic association planned its parade for May 12, and so the WRL planned its actions for the same time.

Photo by Grace Hedemann

Just before arrest on May 12 on Fifth Avenue.

New York's WRL Chapter set a model for local groups everywhere. The night before the grand parade, a special group stenciled DISBAND THE MILITARY in two foot high letters on Fifth Avenue, in front of the reviewing stand. On the morning of the parade, while a member of the military was carefully spray-painting over the slogan, other WRL members took up their positions. Some were filling balloons with helium and handing them to passing children. The slogan: Blow Up Balloons, Not People. And WRL members had gotten special passes to the reviewing stand, where they were ready with signs and banners for peace when the parade came by.

Nineteen WRL members, including half the office staff, never saw the parade—they sat down as soon as the first line of troops came up Fifth Avenue and were arrested. All were released later the same day. We are not sure if the military plans to observe Armed Forces Day in 1980, but if so, the New York Local has said it will be willing to help, once more, make sure the day is noticed. The WRL action got a full page spread in the Daily News!

BUSTED FOR PETITIONING AGAINST DRAFT

Joe Felmet, longtime WRLer, was arrested June 4 for the "crime" of circulating the League's anti-draft petition at Hanes Mall Shopping Center in Winston-Salem. Prior to the bust, the merchandising manager of Sears had urged him to desist. Three days later Felmut was tried in Forsyth district court, found guilty of trespassing and fined $5. He immediately gave notice of appeal.

Joe Felmut getting a signer.

Though Felmet asked the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union to enter the case, he made clear: "My continuing petitioning does *not* depend on your reply. As the petition states, I am willing to practice civil disobedience in opposing the draft. I am also willing to practice it to defend the First Amendment."

Those who are opposed to registration and the draft are urged to make their opposition known to their Senators and Representatives in Washington. Response to the WRL's anti-registration/draft petition has been excellent. Petitions are available by writing to the WRL office.

According to CCCO (Central Committee for Conscientious Objection, 2016 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103) there is a good chance that congress will pass a registration bill this session. Approval by the House of Representatives is likely. The Senate bill may be slightly more difficult to pass, but registration is gaining support in both houses.

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